

Applicants: Alexander Buhl et al.  
Application No.: 10/815,933

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claim 2 is cancelled. Thus, claims 1 and 3-26 are pending, with claims 1 and 3-13 currently under examination.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

October 31, 2005

Kavita B. Lepping  
Catherine M. Voorhees  
Registration No. 33,074  
Kavita B. Lepping  
Registration No. 54,262  
VENABLE LLP  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998  
Telephone: (202) 344-4000  
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

694739